

LAW OFFICES  
**CATALANO & PLACHE, PLLC**  
3221 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20007  
Telephone (202) 338-3200  
Facsimile (202) 338-1700

ORIGINAL

November 19, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

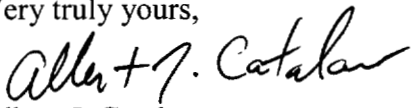
Re: *Ex Parte* Notice, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service;  
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"), 47 CFR § 1.1206, this letter provides notice that on November 18, 2004, Albert J. Catalano and Matthew J. Plache of Catalano & Plache, PLLC, counsel to Nextel Partners, Inc., met with Christopher Libertelli, Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Michael K. Powell. At the meeting, the attendees discussed the Rural Local Exchange Carriers' ("Rural LECs") Application for Review of the Bureau's Order in the above-referenced proceeding designating Nextel Partners as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in seven states. We discussed the issues raised in the Application for Review and the procedural deficiencies of the Rural LECs' arguments as discussed in Nextel Partners' Opposition to the Application for Review and Motion to Strike the Rural LECs' Reply to Opposition. We discussed the difficulty in staying the Bureau's Order in light of the finality of other ETC designation orders.

In addition, we discussed the maps submitted by TDS Telecom ("TDS") in the course of recent *ex parte* communications and discussed Nextel Partners' advertising and its commitment to provide the ETC supported services within the study areas in which Nextel Partners has in fact been designated as an ETC, noting that Nextel Partners has not been designated in many of the study areas depicted on the TDS maps. We also discussed Nextel Partners' progress in meeting its buildout projections previously submitted to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

  
Albert J. Catalano

Cc: Christopher Libertelli, Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Powell

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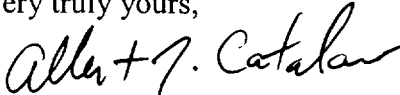
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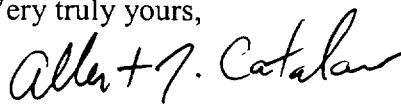
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